

Unto *His Majesties High Commissioner,*
and the *Right Honourable*
Estates of Parliament.

T H E
PETITION

O F

JAMES BAYNE His Majesties Late Mr. Wright.

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT when King *Charles* the second of Blessed Memory Resolved to build a Palace in this his Ancient Kingdom, for the better reception of Himself and Successors, when ever they should Honour the Nation with their presence. His Majestie gave Commission to your Petitioner to be Master Wright, which office he discharged with great Fidelitie; And having at the time of Building the Palace at Holyrood-house, and reparations of the Castles of *Edinlurgh, Stirling, & Bass* an opulent Fortune of about 50000 Pounds Scots worth of timber in the Buys of *Leith*, as is well known to many of this Citie, and could be made appear by Irrefragable instructions, such was his zeal for the publick, & earnest desire to carry on these works which were to the Honour and security of the Kingdom, that when there was not Money in the Theasurie to buy materials necessary; He furnished all things so far as that his Stock could reach. And moreover, he raised Money owing him by some Noble Persons, and Others, *Viz:* from the Marquess of *Tweddal*, his Majesties Commissioner, 7000 pounds, from the Earl of *Pannure* 12000 pounds, and from the Earl of *Strathmore* 4000 pounds, and from the Neighbours in *Edinburgh*, ten thousand pounds, in all 33000 pounds, which was raised in the year 1675, and the Annualrent thereof since that time, would more then double the Summ, and even after that all was exhausted, he ingadged his Credit, and ceased not to furnish what was needful, till that the Palace was compleated; But by these means he not only spent his own Fortune, but stands considerably in debt to others, he being never as yet reimbursed by his Majestie of the summs given out by him, and his case and condition being represented to the late King *James*, his Majestie was Graciously pleased to Recommend to the Lords of Theasurie to consider your Petitioners claim and accompts; And the Marquess of *Tweddal*, now his Majesties High Commissioner, the Lord *Balcarras*, and General *Drummond* being appointed by the Theasurie to visit his compts, their Lordships at that time adjusted for upwards of two thousand pound Sterling by subscribed compts, besides two thousand and five hundred pounds more of Money foresaid, which these noble persons did not then fully consider; And report of this being made to the Lords of the Theasurie, they granted your Petitioner a precept for five hundred pounds Sterling: But the Revolution and change in Government happening shortly thereafter, he got no payment thereof, as the precept herewith produced does evidence, so that there is yet more nor four thousand five hundred pound Sterling owing by the publick to him, besides the Annualrent thereof; By which he is reduced to most miserable straits, a most sad and lamentable condition, and more deplorable than he can express, and which can hardly be conceived by any but by him who feels its said pressure: For now some of his Creditors are in possession of his Lands within this City, yielding about eight hundred pound Scots yearly: And others having personal diligence against him



him, have frequently incarferate and imprisoned him, & being liberate only upon his friends', being Caution to present him again to Prison when required, he is still in danger of being apprehended by Messingers at the instance of other Creditors; By all which he is not only put out of all Trade and imployment, and has nothing wherewith to maintain himself and prevent *Starving*, nor can he any wayes satisfie his Just Debts and relieve his Friends, which is no little Trouble to an Honest and ingenuous Spirit; Especially considering, That your petitioner is owing much, amongst others, to Widdows and Orphans, who Intrusted him with their whole Stock, and are thereby now reduced to Beggary; And since all this Misericie is come upon him by his Zeal for advancing Works to the Honour and Safetie of the Nation, and by his being obliged to pay Annualrent for 27500 pound *Scots*, which he contracted by carrying on these publick Works is evident by a general Suspension herewith produced, which he obtained against his Creditors, and to which no regard is had, and by his lying out of more then 4500 pound *Starling* and Annualrents thereof owing him by the Publick, of which the Lords of *Treasurie* are most sensible, and after frequent Supplications declare their willingness to do your petitioner Justice, but alleadge they have not a Fond for satisfying him.

It is therefore humbly Craved, That Your Grace, and Honourable Estates of Parliament, would take Your Petitioners sad Case, and Circumstances to your serious Consideration, And in regard to Justice & Honour of the Nation, Ordain some Fond for paying your Petitioner the 2000 pound *Starling* and more already adjusted, the Compts whereof are Subscribed, and the 2500 pound Money foresaid justly Resting, tho not yet fully Adjusted, Together with the Annualrent of both the Summs, since the time they became due; and if all cannot be shortly payed, that in the mean time he may have some Money advanced for his present maintainance, and the Lords of Session be authorized to grant him Suspension against his Raged Creditors upon his giving assignation to what is owing by the Publick to him for their more ready payment, That so your Petitioner may have wherewith to pay his just Debts, And what is more nor satisfies his Creditors, he may have it to maintain him in his Old Age, That no Trades-man hereafter may be discouradged to advance publick Works, when they shall see and hear how the Honourable Court of Parliament concern themselves to see the Publicks just Debts Satisfied and Payed. And Your Petitioner shall ever Pray,
&c.